

Editorial

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RAIL CLERKS TO OPEN MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

Strategy for a broad campaign throughout this year to expand its membership and register new benefits were drafted at a national conference in Chicago recently by leaders of the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks from all parts of the nation. Officers of the grand lodge and general chairmen, nearly 200 in all, took part in the meeting.

One of the highlights was an address by President George M. Harrison in which he called for establishment of a 40-hour basic week on the railroads.

"That has become standard in nearly all other industries, and the 'Iron Horse' must meet that standard also," Harrison declared. "A shorter week will mean increased efficiency on the part of the employees and will prove of real benefit to our entire industry."

Harrison and Harry L. Tuttle, director of organization for the Clerks, presented a glowing account of the union's gains during the past year.

Membership soared by 30,000 to over the 300,000 mark, they reported. Additional railroads, airlines and bus lines were brought under agreement and the last "company union" in the Clerks' craft on Class I roads was eliminated. Charters were issued to 99 new lodges.

Harrison cited exceptional gains on a number of airlines, including a 40-hour week, marked improvement in overtime pay, sick leave and vacations with pay, and substantial wage increases.

Both Harrison and Tuttle made it clear that the union, doesn't intend to rest on its laurels, but that even more intensive organizing efforts are to be pushed in 1947—particularly in air transportation, motor transport and coastwise steamship service. The goal for this year, they said, is "350,000 members."

"Although we have grown considerably," Harrison said, "we can't afford to be complacent. We must expand our educational work. We must instill the trade union spirit in our people or lose ground."

Pitfalls lie ahead unless the new members are imbued with devotion to unionism, he stressed. As evidence of the danger, he cited the current drive to induce all workers to sign petitions asking for repeal of the Crosser amendments to the Railroad Retirement and Unemployment Insurance Acts.

These petitions are being circulated by stooges seeking personal advancement," he said. "Some workers have been duped into signing them, although it is obvious the petitions emanated from sources hostile to our unions."

Other speakers at the early sessions included Vice President J. H. Sylvester and E. R. Kinley, assistant to the president, who gave advice on proper handling of grievances and changes in working conditions.

RANKS OF TEACHERS MAY SHRINK

Increasing economic distress will bring a further shortage of school teachers this year, it was predicted by Willard E. Givens, executive secretary of the National Education Association, in a discussion before members of that organization in Washington recently.

Increases in salary granted to teachers in many communities for the school year 1946-47 are being canceled out by rising price levels, he stated, adding:

"The problem of recruiting and keeping teachers will continue to grow worse."

Estimating that the average salary of teachers, principals and supervisors was about \$2,000 for the school year 1945-46, Mr. Givens declared that the 1946-47 average would have to rise by \$300 to \$400 to help check the personnel shortage.

Mr. Givens stated that Federal income taxes added a "special twist" to the current economic pressure upon teachers because they had not been subject to those taxes prior to 1939 and "neither salary schedules nor personal budgets were adjusted to the expectation of such tax payments."

The purchasing power of the "spendable income" of a teacher without dependents earning the average salary, he said, was 13 per cent, lower for the calendar year 1946 than for 1939, adding that the estimated value in 1935-39 dollars of the salary, less taxes, was \$1,419 in 1939 and \$1,235 in 1946.

The NEA recommended a minimum salary of \$2,400 for fully qualified teachers. It was estimated that, after income taxes, the remaining salary of \$2,082 would be worth \$1,315 in prewar purchasing power.

Meanwhile Gov. Thomas E. Dewey, of New York signed bill granting teachers in that State pay increases under an emergency appropriation of \$32,000,000.

Teachers in New York State, disappointed by the amounts of increases permitted in the measure, arranged protest meetings in almost every large city and made preparations for a large demonstration in New York City.

Joseph Landis, president of the American Federation of Teachers, said he appreciated the increase but added he was disappointed that it was merely an emergency move rather than permanent legislation. He expressed hope that it would be made permanent by later action at Albany.

"Salary increases in the teaching field are sadly needed throughout the country," Mr. Landis said. "We are encouraged by each legislative action toward this end and hope eventually that these benefits can be spread across the country."

Subscribers to The Journal should send in their renewal subscriptions immediately. The price is \$2.00 per year. Much is happening in Dixie in the labor world and you should not miss a single issue. Address Charlotte Labor Journal, P. O. Box 1061, Charlotte, N. C., and remit by either money order or check.

THE MARCH OF LABOR



TWO HUNDRED ITALIAN PEASANTS THREW DOWN THE BOUNDARIES ON 600 ACRES OF LAND NEAR ROME IN AUGUST, 1946 — THE PROPERTY OF PRINCE ALLESSANDRO TORLONIA, AND PROCEEDED TO DISTRIBUTE THE LAND AMONG THEMSELVES. THEY CLAIMED THAT THE PRINCE HAD NEVER PUT THE LAND TO USE, THUS CONTRIBUTING TO THE GENERAL FOOD SCARCITY. SO FAR THIS OCCUPATION OF LAND HAS MET WITH NO RESISTANCE FROM THE ITALIAN AUTHORITIES.



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THE NET WORKING CAPITAL OF 63 LARGEST MANUFACTURING CORPORATIONS INCREASED FROM \$5,223,000,000 IN 1939 TO \$8,402,000,000 IN 1945.

AFL MAN TO HEAD NEW LABOR DEPT. SETUP

Secretary of Labor Lewis Schwellenbach has set up a labor education service to "improve and broaden" the department. Arthur A. Elder, president of the Michigan Teachers Federation (AFL) will head this new service. Mr. Elder will continue his work as director of the University of Michigan's workers' education service, a position he has held for the past three years.

The new bureau will offer personal consultative service to any union, university, labor school or civic group to develop a labor-education program, serve as a clearing house on labor education matters, and prepare and distribute lesson plans and pamphlets containing study material.

Five members of this 10-man advisory committee are from the American Federation of Labor. They are as follows: Director of Research Florence C. Thorne; Director of Organization Frank Fenton; Director of Social Insurance Activities Nelson H. Cruikshank; Research Director Marion Hedges, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, and Secretary-Treasurer James Brownlow, Metal Trades Department.

Green Warns Of Request Made By U. S. Physicians

Washington, D. C. — Grave warning of a recent development in the field of medical care, of vital concern to all unions which have established sick benefit plans or have evinced an interest in such plans, was sounded by AFL President William Green in a letter to all National and International unions.

Citing the request of the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association for official representation on any body in control of funds to promote the health and medical care of the United Mine Workers, Mr. Green declared this action was in line with "the long-standing policy of the AMA to maintain monopolistic control of all means of providing medical service."

Declaring that such a policy "affects our plans for securing enactment of national health insurance," Mr. Green asserted: "In line with this monopolistic practice the AMA and its state societies have been instrumental in passing state laws which, if held constitutional, will prevent wage earners and other non-professional groups from organizing or promoting plans unless the doctors are given a controlling voice in every state and every county where such plans may try to operate.

"Such restrictive laws have already been passed in about 15 states and it is reported that bills along this line will be introduced at the instigation of the state medical societies in many state legislatures during 1947. "Now we see the AMA, while

continuing to seek medical monopoly over health insurance plans in general, demanding representation on the controlling body of a plan started and supported by organized workers!

"You understand that the position of the American Federation of Labor has always been that it is proper that physicians have the sole responsibility for the purely professional services supplied through insurance plans, but it is not appropriate that they should have control of the organization and management of such plans.

"I am enclosing a summary of a recent article by Dr. Michael M. Davis, which gives a clear picture of the situation developing within the states. I ask that this matter be brought to the attention of your legislative representatives and that they take proper action. It would also be appropriate to notify your State medical societies that you do not propose to surrender the management of medical service plans to monopoly control and to demand of them that adequate representation of labor and other public groups is accorded on the governing bodies of all medical care plans."

TRUCKERS GET INCREASE

Atlanta, Ga. — Central Truck Lines, Inc., have signed a city pick-up and delivery agreement and also an over-the-road agreement for their employees under the Teamsters jurisdiction with Truck Drivers and Helpers Local Union 728 (AFL).

Uncle Sam Says



Ponder these facts, niece and nephew. In 1937 many Americans bought the Series C Savings Bond, similar in every respect to the present Series E bond which millions of you are now buying regularly through payroll savings or at your bank or post office.

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